

**Town of Barre
Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2018**

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, February 5, 2018 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Board members present were: Doug Farnham, Dave Rouleau, Terry Smith, Mike Gilbar, and Brian Wilcock. Absent were Craig Locarno and Adi Dobrilovic. Also present were Lee Wilschek; Steve Maas and Kevin Spaulding representing Millstone Trails Association (MTA), Shawn Stabell representing the Times Argus; and town staff town manager Carl Rogers, and assistant town manager Elaine Wang.

Chairman Doug Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Terry Smith moved that the agenda be approved as written. Mike Gilbar seconded the motion and the board approved it by a 5-0 vote.

Gilbar noted that on p4 of the minutes from the previous meeting, the word “included” should be changed to “including,” and made a motion to approve the January 8, 2018 meeting minutes with that change. Smith seconded the motion. The board voted 5-0 to approve the minutes of 1/8/18.

There were no guests for a matter not on the agenda.

5. Field Requests –

- a. **BTMES School Carnival:** As in years past, BTMES would like to hold a carnival using the entire park on a school day, Friday June 1, 7:30am-3:30pm. Smith made a motion to approve the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School Carnival use of the main recreation area on Friday June 1, 7:30am-3:30pm, 2018. Gilbar seconded the motion and the board approved it 5-0.

6. Tennis Lessons – At the last meeting, the Board instructed staff to identify a tennis instructor to fill in this summer since the usual instructor is unavailable. Lee Wilschek, who is the U32 tennis coach, was recommended by the First in Fitness tennis instructor, and came to the meeting with questions. Wilschek asked whether balls, racquets, and hoppers would be supplied by the Town. Rogers responded that the Town had a supply of tennis balls and racquets to lend, but that the Town did not have hoppers. Rouleau noted that the usual instructor had them and perhaps they could be borrowed. Wilschek asked whether public transit was available to the courts and whether she would want to plan around parent drop-off schedules. Farnham responded that there was no public transit and Rouleau said that yes, parents would be dropping off their children. Wilschek asked how to offer a youth program that allowed them to be picked up and dropped off assuming 9-5 working parents, and Smith remarked that it was not possible. The Board advised Wilschek to organize the times so that they worked for her, the instructor. By consensus, the Board agreed with Wilschek’s proposal of 2:30pm-4pm and 5:30pm-7pm. Wilschek asked about the email from Wang about longer hours. Wang explained that the usual instructor offered the intermediate session for youth at a separate time, so that during the second week, there were 4.5 hours of instruction total Tuesday through Thursday. Wilschek thought both sessions could be open to both age groups. The Board agreed by consensus. Wilschek asked about the \$700 stipend and whether it was paid through payroll. Rogers confirmed the amount and that it was paid through payroll.

Advertising was discussed. Front Porch Forum, announcements during the Selectboard meeting, and schools were mentioned. Rogers noted that the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School is not willing to distribute flyers since they are asked to so often, but that if the times were provided to them they may post on

their website and put in their newsletter. Other schools identified to reach out to were Websterville Baptist, Barre City Elementary and Middle School, Spaulding High, and Montessori School of Central Vermont. Kevin Spaulding provided contact information for the Montessori Head of School. Wilschek asked for the town logo, payable-to information, and registration form be provided to her. Wang agreed to do so. Wilschek inquired about the registrant age group breakdown and Wang said she would ask the usual instructor for that information. The Board expressed appreciation for Wilschek's willingness to offer this summer's tennis lessons.

7. MTA Proposal – Maas and Spaulding provided their proposal to electrify the Town Forest Garage, which is owned by the Town of Barre. Half is used by the Millstone Trails Association and the other half by the Barre Town Thunder Chickens Snowmobile Club. Their proposal was informed by Selectric, LLC, owned by a certified electrician who is also Kevin Spaulding's brother. The proposed infrastructure upgrades were a 100 amp. overhead service with meter socket and breaker panel, and outside LED light fixtures (one floodlight to point towards the parking area, one floodlight towards the front, and one recessed fixture each for the two side doors). Tenant-option upgrades would be two 28" interior LED fixtures and two 2-gang GFCI receptacles. The infrastructure upgrade was quoted at \$2,086. Spaulding estimated Efficiency Vermont would provide \$305 in lighting rebates. The proposal includes that MTA subsidize the installation costs with their own labor and donated materials at a value of \$750. The tenants would pay for their interior upgrades at \$165 each. The proposal was for Barre Town to pay for the infrastructure upgrade of \$1,031 total along with the ongoing electrical bill, and the two tenants to pay for the interior upgrades.

There was discussion about motion sensors and photo sensors on the outside lights. Spaulding said they could be included at no extra cost. Farnham voiced concern over the impact of the outdoor lights on wildlife. MTA and the Board agreed by consensus that the lights could be timed to stop turning on after 11pm. They could be set to all-night if security issues arose. Farnham asked Gilbar, who also works at VLCT, the Town's insurer, whether electrifying the garage would change the Town's insurance rate. Gilbar said it shouldn't. Farnham asked whether the Town would need to ask permission from the Vermont Land Trust to light the garage. Rogers said we could notify them that we were doing it, and ask if permission was necessary. Wilcock asked whether the Town had a dark sky ordinance. Rogers said that the Town doesn't, but that common practice is to downcast the lights. Spaulding agreed. Rouleau, who is also the Thunder Chickens President, indicated he would support the \$165 tenant fee in order to have electricity, although they do not have enough demand to have initiated the project themselves. Rogers asked whether trees would be affected by running the new service. Spaulding said that it was planned to cause minimal impact to trees and no felling would be required, though trimming may eventually be needed. Discussion ensued regarding when the work would be done and when it would be paid for. Rogers said MTA could do the work prior to July if they were comfortable doing so on a commitment that the Town would pay after July 1, 2018, the fiscal year in which this cost would be budgeted. Maas said that they would be comfortable with that.

Smith motioned that the Board agree to pay a cost not to exceed \$1,100 to electrify the Town Forest Garage and to pay the ongoing electric bill. Wilcock seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

The guest for agenda item #8 had not arrived by this time so the Chair decided to move up other agenda items until the guest arrived.

9. Freezing Fun for Families fee waiver – When approving the FFFF field use request in the past, the Rec Board has waived field use and lighting fees (\$10/day game, \$35/night), voting on it in order to have it recorded as a donation. Gilbar made a motion to waive the field use and lighting fees for the 2018 Freezing Fun for Families winter softball tournament. Wilcock seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

10. Pickleball – Rouleau provided an update on the pickleball program. Attendance has been strong this year with over 20 participants for the last 3 Sundays, many intermediate players, and some beginners. Many players are Barre Town residents and about 10 are regulars. All three courts are continuously in use this year with

many players having to sit out waiting for a free side. Farnham has been implementing different strategies to maximize court time for individuals, such as playing to lower points when there is a wait. Smith asked whether more courts could be set up in the cafeteria. Farnham said the ceilings are too low, and the multipurpose room would not work because the rubberized mat prohibits the proper bounce.

Rouleau brought up the possibility of an outdoor summertime court, for example at the EMS basketball court, which would be less intrusive. The tennis courts at the Rec Area are another possibility, but the nets would need to be lowered and so would be more intrusive. Sidewalk chalk could be used to mark the courts temporarily. Smith asked whether the Graniteville basketball court could be used; Farnham said it was not level enough.

Rogers asked if there had been any player injuries. Farnham and Rouleau responded that there had not been any serious ones.

11. Dog Park – Farnham reported that the dog park is now fully enclosed. Some work remains. He asked Wang to publicize that it was ready for use, to remind people not to walk their dogs in the school playground, and to send him the unpaid Lafayette invoice so that he could inquire whether it was the last invoice for the current work order.

Rouleau described the Calcutta fundraiser and silent auction. Calcutta balls are \$50 each which buys two spaghetti dinners. The grand prize for the Calcutta will be \$500. The meal is purposefully low-budget so as to maintain maximum revenue for the dog park. The Dog Park Committee estimates, after costs, that 100 tickets would raise the remaining ~\$3,000 required to pay off the Dog Park fencing. Silent auction proceeds could then be put towards the purchase of the planned amenities.

Rouleau provided an update on the Caws 4 Paws event. DockDogs has been secured and the Committee is working on a primary sponsor for them at \$5,500, and secondary sponsors for other expenses such as port-o-lets. DockDogs will locate across the Rec Area road from the Dog Park. Rouleau expressed the hope that bleachers could be moved there for the event. The food sponsor will be Food Science, who will give out free product and be placed next to DockDogs. Rouleau has asked for a copy of the DockDogs contract so he could let the Town know what they expect the Town to provide, like power. The event organizer, JD Green, and the Dog Park Committee can be at the next meeting. Rouleau asked whether the Town would allow DockDog campers in the Rec Area. They would be there from June 8th to June 10th noon including setup and teardown. Smith and Rogers were concerned that this would imply to the general public that camping is allowed at other times by anyone, which it is not. Other ideas were discussed. Rouleau noted that the Fire Department would be needed to fill the DockDogs pond.

Smith reminded those present that Rec Area facilities should be reserved for the event on June 9th and that the June 2nd reservation, the original date of the Spring into Summer Festival, be released. Farnham noted that the upper soccer field would not be needed for Caws 4 Paws, though if anyone else wanted to use it, they would not be able to drive to it. The picnic shelter would not be needed either, nor by the Rec Board-organized kids activity zone.

Rouleau asked for this topic be back on the next agenda.

8. Times Argus Escape Room – Shawn Stabell introduced this idea to increase Times Argus's community engagement, promote recreation, provide something fun to do and raise funds for a good cause. They plan to have the Escape Room at Lenny's outlet so that passers-by could see, through the windows, participants working through the puzzles. Teams would have 30-40 minutes to finish. Each time slot would be 45 minutes long to allow rooms to be reset. The event will raise money for youth sports. The escape story clues would promote outdoor recreation activities available in Barre City and Barre Town, with each story themed to one recreation feature. Discussion ensued as to optimal days of the year to hold the event and how to promote it. Smith volunteered to help.

12. Spring into Summer Festival – Smith expressed that the festival should not be branded separately from Caws 4 Paws. After some discussion, the Board agreed, by consensus, and further agreed that as long as Caws

4 Paws continues annually at the Rec Area, that the Board would not hold a Spring into Summer Festival. Rouleau noted that the goals of the Festival - to get people to the Rec Area and give them something free to do outside - are met by Caws 4 Paws. The Board indicated they do want to organize a kid zone as part of Caws 4 Paws, which Rouleau said that JD Green was fine with. Smith said that the regular facepainter for the Town festivals, Alexis Dexter, has penciled in the date. Wilcock, who works for SunCommon, said he could have SunCommon's bounce house there for free. Smith said that in any case she did not want the Board to pay for a bounce house during this event which would have so much unusual activity to already draw people, but rather save the budget for the Fall Festival. There was discussion about a petting zoo. Smith, Gilbar, and Whitney Renaud, the Spaulding student representative to the Board, will be the kid zone subcommittee.

13. Sledding Party – Rouleau said that the Thunder Chickens snow groomer would move snow for a sledding hill after the Wednesday storm but before the weekend party. Smith relayed that Granite City Grocery and Vermont Bicycle Shop were still on board to come. She said she would check with Renaud about high schoolers coming to pull sleds.

14. Lower Graniteville Playground Retrofit – Wilcock said that he had not thought about the project for the last couple of months. Smith and Gilbar offered to talk it up at the sledding party and to survey participants using Wilcock's posterboard (weather permitting) that he had created for the Halloween survey but could not administer due to a cold. Farnham noted that a take-home survey could be distributed during the sledding party, or the posterboard survey be left out at Graniteville Grocery. Rouleau reminded the Board that Stacy Lynds, who lives in that neighborhood, was willing to help out. Smith brought up the link she had sent around before the meeting and shared her preference for natural-looking equipment.

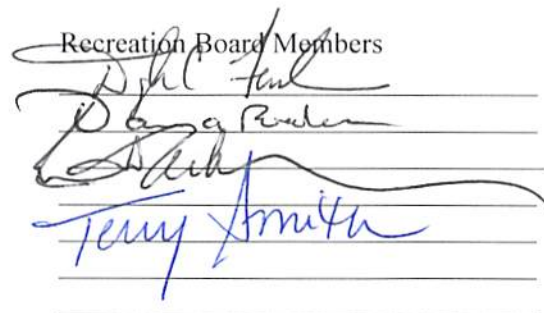
15. Other Business – There was no other business.

16. 'Round the Table – Gilbar said he needed to meet with Farnham about the capital improvement plan.

Wilcock shared that he was likely to be purchasing a house in Waterbury on March 21, likely move to Waterbury at the end of his term, and therefore be ineligible to serve again.

Farnham asked for an update on the school property subdivision and property transfer. Rogers said that the required Act 250 application was submitted, which would hopefully be considered an administrative amendment. If it is, that could mean a decision by the end of February. On the Town side, Rogers explained that since the subdivision plat wasn't filed within the time frame of the DRB approval of the subdivision, the DRB was being asked to re-approve the subdivision at their March meeting. Farnham asked if the business personal property tax mailer had generated any interest. Neither Rogers nor Wang had received or heard of any inquiries. Farnham asked whether the spring field scheduling meeting was usually in the beginning of April. Rogers said yes. They planned to have that topic on the April 2nd agenda.

At 8:16 pm on a motion by Smith, seconded by Gilbar, the board voted 5-0 to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members

The image shows four handwritten signatures in blue ink over horizontal lines. The signatures are: 1. A signature that appears to be 'Daryl Fink'. 2. A signature that appears to be 'Dana Rendon'. 3. A signature that appears to be 'Whitney Renaud'. 4. A signature that appears to be 'Terry Smith'.